

# Core Lesson

# 1

## VOCABULARY

tariff  
states' rights  
sectionalism

### Vocabulary Strategy

sectionalism

Find the word **section** in **sectionalism**. Sectionalism is loyalty to one section, or part, of a country.

## READING SKILL

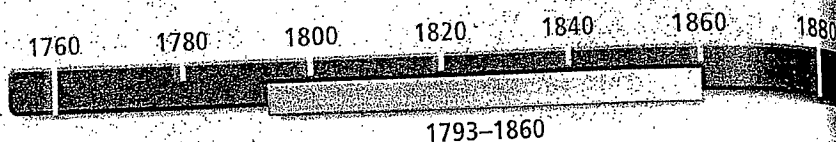
### Compare and Contrast

What differences were there between the North and South in the early 1800s? Write them down as you read.

NORTH	SOUTH

Houghton Mifflin  
social studies  
US History (2005)

# Worlds Apart



**Build on What You Know** When people have very different ideas from one another, it can seem as if they live in separate worlds. In the early 1800s, the South and the North were worlds apart from each other in many ways.

## Slavery in the United States

**Main Idea** Slavery grew in the South after the invention of the cotton gin.

Slavery had a long history in the United States. The thirteen colonies had all allowed slavery, though slaves were less common in the North than in the South. After the War for Independence, several northern states passed laws to abolish, or end, slavery. Southern states chose not to.

At the Constitutional Convention, some delegates tried to stop slavery in all states. As one delegate said, slavery did not fit with "the principles of the Revolution"



## The Growth of Slavery

George Mason, a slaveowner from Virginia, called slavery a "national sin." Delegates at the Continental Congress could not agree to end slavery. Many hoped that it would soon die out. However, changes in southern farming caused slavery to grow in coming years.

After the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, southern farmers wanted more enslaved people to work in their cotton fields. The cotton gin made cotton much easier to produce. At the same time, the value of cotton was rising. New textile mills in Britain and New England needed more cotton, and the South could grow it.

Cotton became the South's most important crop. By 1840, the South was growing most of the world's cotton. Plantation owners used their profits to buy more land and more slaves. Slavery grew rapidly. In 1790, there were about 800,000 enslaved people in the South. By 1860, there were nearly four million.

## Resistance to Slavery

Sometimes enslaved people fought against slaveowners. In Virginia in 1831, an enslaved African American named Nat Turner led a rebellion against slave owners. He and his followers killed 59 people before being stopped by the local militia. After Nat Turner's Rebellion, southern states passed laws to control both enslaved and free blacks. For example, black ministers were no longer allowed to preach without a white person present. By the 1850s, slaves and free blacks had fewer rights than ever.

Slavery became a source of deep conflict between the North and South. Many southerners argued that slavery was too important to their economy to give up. Some people in the North argued that slavery kept the country's economy from growing faster. They also believed that slavery was unfair and wrong.

**REVIEW** What led to the growth of slavery in the early 1800s?

### Cotton Plantations

- 1 Enslaved people worked in the fields, picking cotton.
- 2 Cotton was packed into bales before being shipped.
- 3 Many plantations were near the Mississippi River, where steamboats carried the cotton south to New Orleans.

